



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

# Brater Press Release

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## **Sen. Brater Stands Up to Canadian and Out-of-State Waste**

*Increased Tipping Fee Will Generate \$100 Million*

**LANSING** -- Sen Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) continued her fight today to encourage recycling and reduce out-of-state waste. Sen. Brater is proposing legislation to create a \$6 per ton surcharge for waste disposal in Michigan landfills. The surcharge will raise about \$100 million per year, which will be returned to municipalities for recycling programs and other environmental and local needs.

“This program would encourage recycling and reduce waste being landfilled in Michigan, including out of state waste,” Sen. Brater said. “My plan allows us to accomplish this without putting a financial burden on municipalities in these difficult economic times. We want to work with communities across the state to support those who are already recycling and to assist those who would like to create recycling programs.”

Michigan’s recycling rate is last among Midwestern states with just 20 percent of its waste being recycled. Twenty-five percent of the surcharge will be paid by out of state waste. The fee will bring the cost of landfilling in Michigan more in line with other states and make Michigan landfills less of a magnet to out of state waste.

Any municipality with an existing recycling program will be eligible to receive the money back on a per capita basis. There will also be support for counties to develop a countywide solid waste plans. Senator Brater will bring together key constituent groups and stakeholders to determine how fees should be distributed.

“Tipping fees will not only encourage Michigan residents to recycle, they will help to halt the flow of Canadian and out-of-state waste into our great state,” said James Clift, policy director for the Michigan Environmental Council. “We applaud Sen. Brater for her efforts to protect our environment and help local municipalities find the funding to build and strengthen recycling programs.”

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